

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Burdick, George, Girod, Rosenbaum, Bonamici
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Lori Brocker, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/29, 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows intervenors to recover costs and reasonable attorney fees in administrative hearings involving housing discrimination. Applies to proceedings under ORS 659A.145, ORS 659A.421, or federal housing law. Makes Oregon law substantially equivalent to federal law. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Noncompliance
- HUD regulations to prevent potential abuse of system
- Legal standing of intervenor

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) contracts with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to investigate cases of fair housing discrimination. The BOLI-HUD contract allows an Oregon complainant to have the case investigated locally, rather than from HUD's regional office in Seattle. Maintaining this contract requires that Oregon law show substantial equivalency to federal law. SB 59 makes Oregon law consistent with federal law in the award of costs and fees in fair housing discrimination proceedings involving discrimination against persons with a disability in a real property transaction (ORS 659A.145), discrimination in selling, renting or leasing real property (ORS 659A.421), or under federal housing law. Passage of both SB 58 and SB 59 is necessary for substantial equivalency between state and federal law.